

Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Striped Bass Industry Work Group Meeting July 13, 2011





Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Meeting Agenda

- Introduction- Tom O'Connell, Director Fisheries Service
 - Objective: Open the discussion about the future of the commercial striped bass fishery.
- Management Principles / Identified Problems M. Luisi
 - Objective: Presentation describing the problems with current industry practices which fail to meet our standards for management of the striped bass fishery.
- Options to Address Identified Problems M. Luisi
 - Objective: Discuss the necessary actions, both regulatory and nonregulatory, to address the problems associated with meeting our management principles.



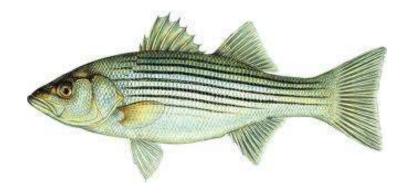


Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Management Principles/Minimum Requirements

The following represent the Department's core fishery management principles:

- Sustainability
- Harvest Accountability
- Enforceability
- Cost Recovery









Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Striped Bass Workgroup / Goals and Objectives

Goal

 Provide a management plan for the long-term sustainability of the Maryland striped bass commercial fishery

Objectives

- Develop a plan that keeps harvest within the quota
- Create an open process of cooperative development of fishery rules
- Create enforceable and understandable regulations
- Create fair and objective rules for allocation of total quota
- Optimize economic efficiency
- Provide for strict accountability of harvesters



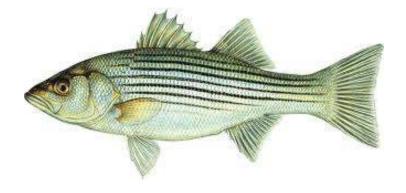


Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Problems Associated w/ Management Principles

Sustainability:

- Current biological targets are being met (SSB, F).
- However, it is necessary to address issues with harvest accountability, enforceability and cost recovery to maintain and fully achieve sustainability







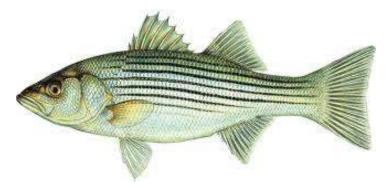
Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Problems Associated w/ Management Principles

Harvest Accountability:

Problems have been identified relating to individual fisherman and check station accountability

- Under Reporting and Falsifying Reports
- Illegal /Misuse of tags
- Calling Check Stations and Physical ID of catch by check station staff







Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Problems Associated w/ Management Principles

Enforceability:

- Use of Illegal Anchor Gill Nets
- Illegal / Misuse of Tags
- Falsified harvest reports

Cost Recovery:

- Total Permit and License Fee Revenue ~\$451,000
 - Permit (138,000) and License Fee (313,000)
 - Not all fees used for striped bass management
- Total Management & Enforcement Cost ~\$1.02 million
 - Biological and Permit Monitoring Cost ~\$470,000
 - Enforcement Cost ~\$500,000
 - Other Misc. Management Cost ~\$50,000





Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Options to Address Identified Issues

<u>Enforceability – Short Term (Upcoming Gill Net Fishery):</u>

- Require fisherman's license number identification on net corks on a vessel or deployed.
- Elimination of net reels on boats engaged in gill net fishing in the Chesapeake Bay only.
- Fisheries to provide NRP with commercial tag sequence.
- Increase in Penalties (Existing & Knowingly egregious or repeat)
- Hail-In / Hail-Out (HI/HO) System for all active gill netters.
 - Real-time data for NRP
 - License Number, Date, time of departure, fishing area (HO)
 - Time of return, Location of Landing & Check Station , and estimated harvest (HI)
- Random Check Station Audits





Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Options to Address Identified Issues

Harvest Accountability (GN Fishery and Beyond):

- Management Uncertainty regarding reported harvest
 - Reduce the quota allocated (December and 2012) to account for this uncertainty
- State Operated Check Stations Feasible?
 - Approximate cost \$1.9 million (Cost Recovery?)
- HI/HO with Random Audits at Check Stations (All Gears)
- Enforcement of current regulations that require an individual to accompany his/her fish to the check station with documentation
 - 08.02.15.05D: "At check-in time a person shall present his or her commercial fish license and striped bass allocation permit to the Department representative at the check station."





Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Options to Address Identified Issues

Harvest Accountability (GN Fishery and Beyond):

- Mandated Electronic Reporting for all dealers/check stations buying and selling striped bass (SAFIS)
- Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) Voluntary pilot program
- H&L Check-In Time Same Day (similar to all other gears)





Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Options to Address Identified Issues

Cost Recovery:

- Increase commercial fishing license and/or striped bass permit fees over time to obtain greater cost recovery.
- Establish a landings tax





Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Public Comment

or

Questions?

